

A NEW ALOE FROM SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

(With Plate 37.)

By G. W. REYNOLDS.

Aloe Carowii Reynolds. Species nova in Sectione *Serrulatae*. Affinis *A. variegatae* L., sed foliis paucioribus parvisque differt. *Planta* succulenta, acaulescens, stolonifera. *Folia* plerumque 6, sub-trifaria, usque ad 7 cm. longa, 3—4 cm. lata; supra concava, viridia, copiose albo-maculata; subtus convexa, supra medium leviter carinata; ad margines dentibus parvis albis 1 mm. longis, 2—5 mm. distantibus armata. *Inflorescentia* simplex vel 1—2 ramosa, usque ad 50 cm. alta. *Racemus* sublae cylindrico-acuminatus, circiter 30—40 floribus. *Bractae* circiter 6 mm. longae, basi 4 mm. latae, anguste acuminatae, subscariosae 1-nervatae. *Pedicelli* 17 mm. longi. *Perigonium* 30 mm. longum, basi subglobosa-inflatum et 7 mm. diam., supra ovarium constrictum (5 mm.) hinc leviter decurvatum et fauces versus ampliatum. *Segmenta exteriora* per 7 mm. libera, apice nervis 3 viridibus notata; interiora libera, marginibus pallidioribus. *Genitalia* vix vel brevissime exserta. *Ovarium* 6 mm. longum, 3 mm. diam.

Hab. Mandated Territory of S.W. Africa: Cultivated plant from quartz hills 30 miles East of Nauchas, fl. 7 Feb. 1938 in Johannesburg, Reynolds 2247! in National Herb. Pretoria. (Plate 37.)

This interesting novelty was first discovered about 4 years ago by Mr. R. Carow, and subsequently collected by Mr. W. Triebner, of Windhoek, in the Nauchas mountains about 30 miles east of Nauchas, under bushes on quartz hills. Mr. Triebner records that Nauchas is a farm and Police Post in Bastard Land, the Naukluft mountains being about 50 miles long and to the west, the Rehoboth mountains to the north, the Neuras mountains to the east, with the town of Rehoboth lying about 80 miles north-eastwards. Mr. Triebner has also collected this species in the Zaris mountains about 80 miles west of Maltahoehe, and near the farm Jsabis 50 miles west of Rehoboth. Since plants are already in private cultivation, and in order to obviate confusion, I am retaining Mr. Triebner's temporary manuscript name of *A. Carowii*.

This new *Aloe* is a very distinctive species in the Section *Serrulatae*, allied to *A. variegata* L., *A. Dinteri* Berger, and *A. Sladeniana* Pole Evans.

A. Carowii is a small plant, with rosettes only about 7 cm. high, and with usually about 6 leaves, whereas *A. variegata* is a much larger plant, with a much thicker more fleshy peduncle and lower inflorescence. In *A. variegata* the leaf margins and keel are crenate, whereas in *A. Carowii* they are distinctly though finely denticulate. In this respect *A. Carowii* resembles *A. Dinteri* but the latter has considerably longer thinner leaves, and a much more branched inflorescence. (*Vide Fl. Plants S.A.* Part 64, Plate 637, Oct. 1936.) The plant figured in *Fl. Pl. S.A.* (l.c.) is a young one; it might be recorded here, that fully-grown plants of *A. Dinteri* produce up to 3 inflorescences, each with 5—8 branches. I have not seen material of *A. Sladeniana*, but from the published description it is a very different plant.

The inflorescence of *A. Carowii* is mostly simple or bi-furcate, reaching a height of 50 cm.—a surprisingly tall inflorescence from such a small rosette. Mr. Triebner states that one of his largest plants produced a 4-branched inflorescence, but that usually the inflorescence is only 1—2 branched. The species suckers and forms groups, while another interesting character is that the bracts are only 1-nerved.

Mr. Triebner states that he has found plants of *A. Carowii* growing only on quartz hills under bushes, the largest having rosettes only 4 cm. high, but in cultivation rosettes reach a height of 7 cm.

The species is described from material and notes furnished by Mr. Triebner, and from a plant which flowered in my collection in Johannesburg in January and November 1937, and again in February 1938. On the first two occasions the inflorescence was simple, while in February 1938 it was bi-furcate, as is illustrated on the accompanying Plate.

Description: Plant succulent, acaulescent, suckering and forming groups. Leaves about 6, sub-trifarious, up to 7 cm. long, 3—4 cm. broad at base; upper surface concave to broadly "V" shaped in cross section, green, with numerous small white spots throughout, the spots irregularly scattered; lower surface convex, copiously white spotted throughout, slightly carinate towards apex, the keel armed with a few small hard white teeth; margins with a thin white rather cartilaginous edge armed with hard white teeth about 1 mm. long, 2—5 mm. distant. Inflorescence simple or 1—2 branched below the middle, up to 50 cm. high including the raceme. Peduncle slender, 6 mm. diam. low down, with a few sterile bracts which are ovate-acute, about 5 mm. long and broad, thin scarious, whitish, 1-nerved in median line. Raceme sub-laxly cylindric-acuminate, about 18 cm. long, 7 cm. broad, 30—40 flowered, the youngest buds sub-erect and denser, older ones more distant and more horizontally disposed, with the lowest open flowers cernuous. Bracts about 6 mm. long, 4 mm. broad at base, narrowly acuminate thin sub-scarious white

A New Aloe from South-West Africa.

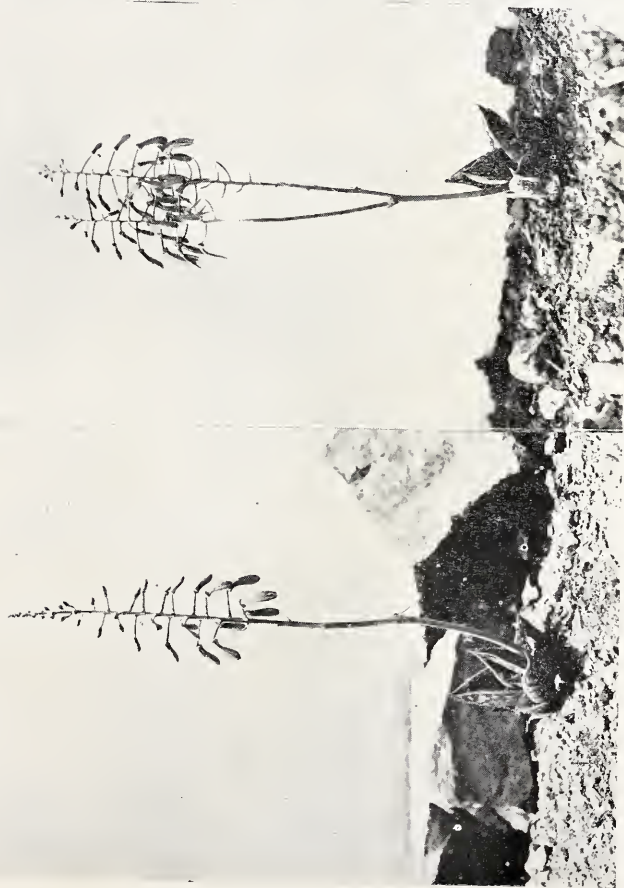


FIG. 1.

FIG. 1.

Plant ex 30 miles east of Nauchas, S.W. Africa, fl. 15 November, 1937, in the author's garden in Johannesburg. Height 48 cm.

FIG. 2. The same plant fl. 7 February, 1938.



FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

Plate 37. *Aloe Carrau*, Reynolds.

FIG. 3. Flowers 1/1 from bud to post-pollination stage.

with one pronounced nerve in median line. *Pedicels* the colour of the perianth, the lowest 17 mm. long, rather horizontally disposed. *Perianth* nearest Peach-Red (R.C.S.I.), paler underneath, slightly greenish at mouth, 30 mm. long, with a sub-globose basal swelling 7 mm. diam., constricted to 5 mm. above the ovary, thence slightly decurved and enlarging to about 8 mm. at the throat, the mouth rather closed. *Outer segments* free for 7 mm., with 3 greenish nerves, apices sub-acute. *Inner segments* free but dorsally adnate to the outer to within 7 mm. of apex, the free portion with pale margins and a rose coloured keel, the apices more obtuse than the outer. *Filaments* pale rose, the anthers scarcely exerted. *Stigma* at length exerted 1 mm. *Ovary* green, 6 mm. long, 3 mm. diam.